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HER MAJESTY'S STATE PAPER OFFICE

By the King.

# A Proclamation inhibiting the Importation of Whale Finnes into His Maieſties Dominions by any, but the Muſcouy Company.

WHereas Wee by Our Proclamation giuen at Wanſted, the eleuenth day of September in the twelfth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland, for the reaſons therin expreſſed, and for the incouragement of Our welbeloued Subiects, the Company of Merchants trading for Muſcouia, Greeneland and the parts adioyning, commonly called the Muſcouia Company, did ſtraitly and expreſſly forbid and prohibit all Aliens and Strangers whatſoeuer, and alſo all our own Subiects (others then the ſaid Muſcouia Merchants, and that in their ioynt-ſtocke) to bring into any Our Kingdomes, and Dominions any Whale Finnes, vpon paine of confiſcation of the ſame, and of Our high indignation and diſpleaſure, and of ſuch further puniſhment as ſhould be meet to be inflicted vpon the Offenders for their contempt in that behalfe.

Now foraſmuch as Wee are giuen to vnderſtand, That our ſaid Proclamation tooke not that good effect, nor found that due obedience and conformitie Which Wee expected: We haue therefore in further manifeſtation of Our former intentions & gracious fauour towards the ſaid Company, thought good eftſoones to publiſh Our Royall pleaſure herein, and to reuiue and quicken our ſaid former Proclamation, Which Wee cannot but take in ill part, hath beene ſo much neglected: And therefore Wee do by theſe Preſents ſtraitly charge, prohibit, and forbid, aſwell all Aliens and Strangers whatſoeuer, as alſo Our naturall borne Subiects & Denizens, That they nor any of them (other then the ſaid Muſcouia Merchants, and that in their ioynt ſtocke onely) ſhall from henceforth directly or indirectly import, or bring into our Kingdomes and Dominions, or any of them, any Whale Finnes, vpon paine of forfeiture and confiſcation of the ſame, whether they be found on board of any Ship, Hoy, Boate, or Bottome, or layd on land

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## A Proclamation inhibiting the Importation

in any Warehouſe, Storehouſe, Shop, Cellar, or any other place whatſoener, and vpon paine of Our high Indignation and diſpleaſure, and ſuch other puniſhment, as by Our Court of Starre-chamber ſhall bee thought meete to be inflicted vpon them, or any of them, as contemners of Our Royall Will and commandement in this behalfe.

And wee doe likewiſe ſtraitly charge, prohibite and forbid, aſwell all Aliens and Strangers, as Our naturall borne Subiects & Denizens (other then the ſaid Muſcouia Merchants) that they nor any of them doe preſume to buy, vtter, ſell, barter or contract for, any whale Finnes, knowing the ſame to be imported into any of our Realmes or dominions contrary to Our will and pleaſure herein declared, vpon paine of Our high indignation and diſpleaſure, and ſuch further puniſhment as by Our ſaid Court of Starchamber ſhall be thought meete to be inflicted vpon ſuch offenders, as contemners alſo of Our Royal commandement. And to the end this Our pleaſure may take the better effect, wee doe hereby charge and command all Cuſtomers, Comptrollers, Searchers, waiters, Farmors, and Collectors of Our Cuſtomes, and other Our Officers and Miniſters, carefully to attend euery one in his ſeuerall place, the execution hereof, and in no wiſe to permit or ſuffer any whale Finnes directly or indirectly, openly or privately to be brought or imported into any Our Kingdoms or Dominions, contrary to Our Royall pleaſure herein expreſſed, or being ſo imported, that they doe not permit, or ſuffer the ſame to be colourably cuſtomed for other goods and Merchandize, but that forthwith they, or ſome of them doe ſeize and take to our vſe, all ſuch whale Finnes as ſhall be ſo imported, and immediatly vpon ſuch ſeizure made, to giue notice thereof in Writing to Our Regiſter for forfeitures in Our Cuſtome-houſe in the Port of London, vpon paine to vndergoe ſuch puniſhment, as ſhall bee thought meete by the Lords of Our Priuie Counſell.

Neuertheleſſe, Our intent and meaning is, That the ſaid Muſcouie Company, and none other, ſhall or may buy and ſell, barter or contract for, any ſuch whale Finnes, as being imported contrary to this Our Proclamation ſhalbe confiſcate and ſeized, and the ſame, being ſold by the ſaid Company, may be afterwards bought, contracted for, and vſed by any other Our Subiects at their will and pleaſure. Any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithſtanding.

Giuen at Our Manour of Greenwich, the eighteenth day of May, in the ſeuenteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

God ſaue the King.

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God save the King.

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